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Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2017

# NEWSLETTER

## Welcome back to the Spring Term 2017

We have a very exciting and eventful term ahead of us. Please keep an eye on the newsletter for event updates and what's happening in school. Staff are organising trips related to the topics they are studying this term. We have an array of events coming up, please check the diary dates. Most of these are for the children, however, there will be some events which parents are invited to.



## Sir Thomas Abney are taking part in **Be Bright – Stay in Sight**

**Friday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2017**  
**Dress-up Day**

**Wear your BRIGHTEST clothes to school or decorate your uniform with bright colourful accessories, festive decorations, etc.**

**This is a JRSO competition and the CLASS with the 'brightest' outfits will be entered for a secret prize!!**

**Pink Green Orange Yellow Grey Light Blue White**

Think about which colours are best during the day and the night?

Find the safest places possible when crossing the road. Wear bright and light colours and/or high visibility material when out and about during the darker months – Be Bright, Be Seen and Be Safe!



## Welcome .....

**Schools Direct Trainee Teachers – Jeya Irvine** (1 Sycamore), **Filsan Dudeye** (5 Walnut) and **Kamilah Burnett-Charles** (2 Maple) who have joined us this week and will stay with us up to the end of March. They will be working alongside the current class teachers. Some of you may remember Kamilah who was a graduate teaching assistant here at STA and had moved on to embark on her teacher training. We are delighted to welcome her back as a trainee teacher. We hope they will all enjoy their time here with us.

We would also like to welcome **Simba Mika** (teaching assistant) who has joined us in the Reception Classes.

## Parent Governor Nominations – Deadline Extended

The deadline for parent nominations to join the governing body of Sir Thomas Abney has been extended. We have become aware that the deadline prior to the Christmas Break didn't allow enough time for some parents to submit their nominations. We would like as many parents to feel they have the opportunity to nominate themselves for this very rewarding post and the returning officer has decided to extend the **deadline to Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2017**. Thank you to those of you who have already submitted your nomination.

Please access the nomination documents via the school website at <http://sirthomasabney.hackney.sch.uk/current-vacancies/>

All completed nominations must be emailed back to [governors@sirthomasabney.hackney.sch.uk](mailto:governors@sirthomasabney.hackney.sch.uk)

We look forward to receiving your nominations.

## IMPORTANT: New School Website and Image Permission

We are nearly at the final stages of building the new school website. The new site will contain a very visual representation of our school including photos and video of children taking part in general lessons, activities, trips, etc. It is, therefore, very important for us to update permissions for children's images. A letter will be going out shortly explaining what the children's images will be used for and where these are likely to appear. A copy of this dated letter will be kept in your child's school file. **Parents will only need to return the reply slip if they are REFUSING permission.** These reply slips will also be kept on the child's file. If we do not receive a refusal slip we will assume that you have no objection to your child's image being used for the purposes stated on the

letter and this will override any previous permissions. We are all very excited about the new website and look forward to your feedback once it goes live.

## Parent Outlines

The half termly Parent Outlines were distributed last Friday. They contain information about what your child will be learning in school this half term. Please make a note of any important dates and changes of routines.

## After School Clubs

There are a variety of after school clubs this term. Children who have been successful in securing a place have been informed via text messages. Most of the clubs have started this week and we hope that children will enjoy their new activities. Payment letters for any paying clubs will be distributed shortly.

The Yr3 Bike Control Skills Club which is a 6 week course and runs to 5pm will start on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> February after the half term break when the days start to get a little lighter.

Sadly, the Mad Science Club had to be cancelled due to a lack of interest. Those who had already registered will be reimbursed directly by Mad Science.

A full list of Clubs for the Spring Term can be found on the school website at <http://sirthomasabney.hackney.sch.uk/enrichment/> and go to After School Clubs .

## Friday (Re)Treat for Parents and Carers

We would like to thank all the parents who came along to the first of these sessions on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> January and hope that they found it relaxing and beneficial. We would like to see more parents taking advantage of these free de-stressing sessions. They take place every Friday, so just come along to the school office and sign in on the day.



## The Daily Mile

There are over 1,000 schools in the UK who take part in 'The Daily Mile' and we have joined them. We are introducing 'The Daily Mile' to all the children in **1 Sycamore** and **3 Aspen** with the hope of making it a school-wide project.

The idea is that the children go outside each day and run, walk or jog for 15 minutes, without having to get changed into PE kits. It's not competitive and most children average a mile, with some doing more and some doing less. It is not PE, but a physical activity aimed at improving children's physical, social, emotional and mental health and wellbeing. It can help children focus and concentrate and improve their attainment in the classroom.

We are really excited about it and look forward to seeing the benefits it brings to the children. You can find out more about how it works by visiting [www.thedailymile.co.uk](http://www.thedailymile.co.uk).



## PE Lessons and Kits

We have noticed that quite a few children regularly do not bring their PE kit in for lessons. Please ensure your child brings in a full PE kit.

- Navy blue shorts or jogging bottoms
- Plain White T-Shirt (No logos or football shirts)
- Trainers or plimsolls (essential in order to avoid accidents)

Please Note:

- Physical education is part of the National Curriculum and an important part of your child's education.
- Children are not allowed to take part in PE lessons without a proper PE kit for health and safety reasons.
- Children should bring their PE Kits in a bag on Monday mornings, leave it on their coat peg and take it home for cleaning every Friday.
- A record is kept of children not bringing in their kit and this is reflected in their end of year report.
- Children **must not** come to school dressed in their PE Kit. An important part of the children's personal development is learning to change in and out of their uniform/PE Kit.

## Year 1 Great Fire of London Show

On Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> January the Year 1 children will be learning about The Great Fire of London through a show run by the Museum of London. It will take place in school.

## Dental Survey for 5 Year Olds

Barts Community Health Services Division will be conducting a Dental Survey for all 5 years old on **Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> January**. Consent forms are being distributed today. **Please return these to the school office by Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2017.**

## Story Telling Week

National Storytelling Week is from 28<sup>th</sup> Jan to 4<sup>th</sup> Feb 2017. We will be running activities in school. However, there is a local activity you may be interested in taking your child along to:

There is a book club which runs at Stamford Hill library called Chatterbooks reading group. It runs every third Tuesday of the month, 4.30-5.30pm. A fun reading group for children aged 8-12. For more information see the Chatterbooks website or contact [michelle.gardner@hackney.gov.uk](mailto:michelle.gardner@hackney.gov.uk) or call 020 8356 1964.

For more information about London Storytelling Week please visit their website:

<http://www.sfs.org.uk/events/london-storytelling-newsletter>

## Book Swap at the Hackney Empire

There is a book swap event at the Hackney Empire on 11<sup>th</sup> February 12-4pm that is free to attend. For more information please go to:

<https://hackneyempire.co.uk/whats-on/childrens-book-swap/>

## Nursery Applications

If you or anyone you know has a child born **after 31<sup>st</sup> August 2013** please come and collect a Nursery Application Form. If you would like further information about Nursery applications please go to <https://www.learningtrust.co.uk/admissions/Pages/SchoolNursery.aspx>

## Reception Applications for September 2017

We are delighted that all our Nursery parents successfully submitted their online applications for their child's Reception place in September 2017. The Hackney Learning Trust admissions department will contact you if there is any outstanding information or supporting documentation to be handed in. You will

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find out the outcome of your application on **Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> April after 5pm via email.**

## Sainsbury's Active Kids Vouchers

We are collecting Sainsbury's Active Kids Vouchers again this year. In previous years these have provided us with additional PE and Playtime equipment. So start collecting everyone and don't forget to put them in the collection box in the school office.

## ESOL Classes

The Hackney Learning Trust ESOL Advice (registration and placement) sessions have resumed for term 2.

Information on days/times (including evenings) and locations is available here:

[www.learningtrust.co.uk/esol](http://www.learningtrust.co.uk/esol)

## Netball Matches

We are delighted to announce that on on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February, 1.30pm to 3pm, we will be hosting a netball tournament.

It will be during Year 6s PE slot in the MUGA. Gayhurst, St Monica's, Shacklewell and Grazebrook schools are attending.

Results will be published in the Newsletter.

Term Dates		
HOLIDAY	BREAK UP	RETURN
Spring Half Term Break	Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> February 2017	Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> February 2017
Easter Holidays	Friday 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2017 at 1.00pm <i>PM Nursery &amp; After-school Twilight club are closed</i>	Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup> April 2017
Summer Half Term Break	Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> May 2017	Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> June 2017
Summer Holidays	Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup> July 2017 at 1.00pm <i>PM Nursery &amp; After-school Twilight club are closed</i>	To be confirmed
Please check future newsletters for updated dates		

Diary Dates for Spring Term 1 <sup>st</sup> Half 2016			
Trip – 5 Walnut	Thu 19 <sup>th</sup> Jan 2017	Monument and Guildhall Library – Young City Poets trip	
Be Bright Stay in Sight Dress-up Day	Fri 20 <sup>th</sup> Jan 2017	JRSO Road Safety Event – Dress up in bright clothes which can be seen during the day and night!	
De-Stressing Relaxation session for Parents/Carers	Fri 20 <sup>th</sup> Jan 2017	9.00-10.15am – Sign in at the school office	
Reception and Yr1 Dental Survey	Wed 25 <sup>th</sup> Jan 2017	Dental health survey run in school by Barts Community Health Service	
RE Workshops for Yrs 4/5/6	Thu 26 <sup>th</sup> Jan 2017	3 Faiths Forum Schools Team to deliver RE workshops	
De-Stressing Relaxation session for Parents/Carers	Fri 27 <sup>th</sup> Jan 2017	9.00-10.15am – Sign in at the school office	
6 Holly Class Assembly	Fri 27 <sup>th</sup> Jan 2017	10.45am – 6 Holly parents are invited to attend	
National Storytelling Week	Sat 28 <sup>th</sup> Jan to Sat 4 <sup>th</sup> Feb 2017	Storytelling activities in school	
Trip – Year 6	Mon 30 <sup>th</sup> Jan 2017	Greenwich Museum	
Trip – Year 1	Fri 3 <sup>rd</sup> Feb 2017	Natural History Museum	
De-Stressing Relaxation session for Parents/Carers	Fri 3 <sup>rd</sup> Feb 2017	9.00-10.15am – Sign in at the school office	
3 Aspen Class Assembly	Fri 3 <sup>rd</sup> Feb 2017	10.10am – 3 Aspen parents are invited to attend	
Safer Internet Day	Tue 7 <sup>th</sup> Feb 2017	Children will learn about how to stay safe online	
De-Stressing Relaxation session for Parents/Carers	Fri 10 <sup>th</sup> Feb 2017	9.00-10.15am – Sign in at the school office	
1 Redwood Class Assembly	Fri 10 <sup>th</sup> Feb 2017	10.10am – 1 Redwood parents are invited to attend	
Netball Tournament	Fri 10 <sup>th</sup> Feb 2017	1.30-3.00pm in the MUGA with visiting schools	
Events/Activities for children in school	Events to which parents are invited	Off-site Activities	Closures